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Agenda item 5

**Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the
rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory**

Letter dated 13 October 2009 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour, in my capacity as the Chair of the Organization of the Islamic Conference Group, to enclose herewith the statement issued by the Ambassadorial Group of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) in New York on 9 October 2009, regarding the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem (see annex).

I kindly request that the present letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5.

(Signed) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 13 October 2009 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement issued by the Ambassadorial Group of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) in New York on 9 October 2009, regarding the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem

The Member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference represented by the Ambassadors of their respective Permanent Missions (OIC Ambassadorial Group) to the United Nations in New York considered the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.

Recalling the relevant resolutions and decisions of the 11th Islamic Summit held in Dakar in March 2008 and the 36th Session of the OIC Council of Ministers (CFM) held in Damascus in May 2009, as well as the Final Communiqué of the Annual Coordination Meeting (ACM) of the OIC Foreign Ministers held in New York in September 2009, the OIC Ambassadorial Group expressed its serious concern about the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as a result of continuing illegal actions by Israel, the occupying Power. In particular, the OIC Ambassadorial Group expressed grave concern about the ongoing illegal Israeli settlement colonization campaign being carried out in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, with shocking intensity in and around Occupied East Jerusalem, and the inhumane, unlawful Israeli blockade that continues to be imposed on the Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip and the resultant dire humanitarian crisis.

The OIC Ambassadorial Group expressed alarm at recent attacks carried out by the occupying forces, including extremist settlers, against Palestinian worshippers at Al-Haram Al-Sharif compound in Occupied East Jerusalem, and condemned Israel's continuing provocations, aggression and illegal actions against the City's holy sites and against its Palestinian inhabitants.

The OIC Ambassadorial Group reiterated its condemnation of all illegal Israeli actions and provocative measures aimed at altering the demographic composition, geographic nature, character and status of Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory. The OIC Ambassadorial Group expressed grave concern that, in defiance of the clear international consensus rejecting such colonization activities and in flagrant breach of international law, Israel continued to construct settlements and the Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, especially in and around East Jerusalem, where the occupying Power also continues, inter alia, to demolish Palestinian homes, to evict Palestinian families from their homes, to confiscate Palestinian land and properties and to carry out excavations in the City, including in the vicinity of Al-Haram Al-Sharif compound.

The OIC Ambassadorial Group reiterated the demand for the immediate cessation of all Israeli violations of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, including an end to its illegal blockade on the Gaza Strip and all settlement activities, which are deepening the suffering of the Palestinian people and undermining the prospects for peace. The OIC Ambassadorial Group called upon the international community, particularly the Security Council, to uphold its

responsibilities and to take the necessary actions to compel Israel, the occupying Power, to comply with all of its legal obligations, including under the Fourth Geneva Convention, and with its commitments under the Quartet Road Map.

The OIC Ambassadorial Group called for a redoubling of efforts aimed at the achievement of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace on the basis of the relevant United Nations resolutions, the Madrid terms of reference, the Arab Peace Initiative and the Road Map. In this regard, the OIC Ambassadorial Group reiterated the OIC's unwavering support for the realization by the Palestinian people of their inalienable rights, including their right to self-determination, with the establishment of their contiguous, viable and independent State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital, and a just solution for the plight of the Palestine refugees on the basis of General Assembly resolution 194 (III).

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Agenda item 5

**Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem
and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory****Security Council
Sixty-fourth year****Identical letters dated 13 October 2009 from the Permanent
Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council**

This is our third letter in less than a month that we have sent in regards to Israel's increasingly aggressive and illegal actions against the Palestinian inhabitants in occupied East Jerusalem. Among the illegal actions committed by Israel, the occupying Power, is its continuation to construct new illegal settlement housing units while expanding its already existing illegal ones. Such actions, while clearly violating all international norms and Israeli obligations as an occupying Power, are also a clear statement of Israeli disdain towards the clear international position in rejection of all settlement activities.

In yet another episode of Israeli violations committed against the Palestinian people, today, 13 October 2009, Israeli occupying forces forcibly evicted a Palestinian family from their home in Beit Hanina, in occupied East Jerusalem, before demolishing it. Israel's machine of destruction and discrimination then moved on to another house, still under construction, bringing the hopes of yet another family to have the security of a home tumbling down. These two illegal demolitions bring the number of Palestinian homes demolished in occupied East Jerusalem since 2004 to over 420 under the cynical pretext that these homes lack construction permits.

Such actions are a stark and alarming reflection of a prejudicial and criminal policy towards Palestinians and expose a consistent policy to drive Palestinians out of the occupied City to create new, false realities on the ground. Moreover, these actions prove beyond a shadow of a doubt that the current extremist Israeli government is determined to destroy any chances for a just and peaceful solution to the ongoing conflict, which can only be resolved through an end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967 and the establishment of a viable and sovereign Palestinian state, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

Surely, this Israeli policy will fail, as it has during the past four decades of its ruthless occupation. Palestinians are determined to remain steadfast on their land,



the land of their ancestors, and determined to bring their eternal capital to life despite the occupation's ruthless policies of destruction and economic siege. It will take more than just the Palestinian people's steadfastness to end Israel's oppression, displacement and depopulation of an occupied people. Thus, the international community cannot turn a blind eye to its moral and legal responsibilities in this regard.

Israel is not above international law and must not be allowed to be treated as such nor should it be allowed to flout the will of the international community, which has been clearly represented in several relevant United Nations resolutions. Allowing Israel's continued disregard seriously undermines our international political system and dangerously challenges the ongoing and genuine efforts to empower the United Nations bodies to fulfil their legal and moral obligations.

We urge the international community to take a clear and determined stance against all forms of Israeli aggression, including the above mentioned. This is essential to preserve the credibility of international law and international humanitarian law, which we consider the only framework for the peaceful resolution of the conflict in the region.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 345 letters to you regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 5 October 2009 (A/ES-10/464-S/2009/513), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Riyad Mansour
Ambassador

Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations

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27 October 2009

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General Assembly
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Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East
Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied
Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-fourth year

**Letter dated 26 October 2009 from the Permanent Observer of
Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I write to you today with urgency regarding the perpetration once again of hostile and aggressive actions in Occupied East Jerusalem at the sacred compound of Al-Haram Al-Sharif. We reiterate our appeal for due attention to be given to such acts of violence, provocation and incitement, which threaten to exacerbate already high tensions and sensitivities and to further destabilize the situation on the ground.

In the early morning hours of Sunday, 25 October, the Israeli occupying forces stormed Al-Haram Al-Sharif compound and fired stun grenades, tear gas and rubber-coated steel bullets at Palestinian worshippers. The Israeli attack resulted in the injury of at least 30 civilians and the detention of 20 others, including Mr. Hatim Abdul Qader, the former Palestinian Authority Minister of Jerusalem Affairs. Also among the injured were women, children, and five Palestinian journalists. Despite the use of force and the wounding of many, the Israeli occupying forces refused to grant the medical teams access to evacuate the injured for more than three hours.

The Palestinian civilians who had been at the holy compound gathered there the night before following calls by radical Jewish clerics to their followers to go to the compound. There was also a call by an extremist Israeli religious group, "Eretz Israel Shelanu", which had urged its followers "to properly arise to the Temple Mount". According to Israeli reports, a number of Israeli lawmakers and rabbis were among those expected to participate. Instead of taking appropriate measures against such acts of provocation and incitement by Israeli extremists that inflame religious tensions and fuel senseless violence, the Israeli occupying forces decided to turn their brutality against Palestinian civilians who had been at the holy compound. Following the raid at Al-Haram Al-Sharif, the occupying Power deployed large military and police contingents throughout Occupied East Jerusalem and imposed measures of collective punishment in and around the city.

The clashes that ensued following this confrontation are painfully reminiscent of previous provocations, sanctioned by successive Israeli Governments, which have



resulted in dangerous escalations on the ground in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. It is imperative to recall that these offensive acts of incitement and provocation are rooted in the Government's extremist position on and incessant aggression against Jerusalem and are constantly fuelled by the incitement of Israeli officials who promote and support Israeli settlers and extremists. In this regard, just hours following the attack on Palestinian civilians at Al-Haram Al-Sharif, a group of Israeli extremists held an event in Jerusalem that was attended by a number of Knesset members and chief rabbis during which calls were made by radical speakers like Hillel Weiss, Moshe Feiglin, Rabbi Yehuda Glick and Rabbi Dov Lior to take control over the holy compound.

As noted in our previous letters on the situation in Occupied East Jerusalem, we reiterate that recent events are the product of predetermined and wilful efforts, with official Israeli complicity and support, to sabotage the efforts to resume the peace process. Such a clear pattern of illegal Israeli actions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, particularly in and around Occupied East Jerusalem, run against repeated international calls as well as the international will to end the occupation and to end this tragic and bitter conflict. As evidenced by history, over the past decade and a half, Israel has spared no effort to obstruct peace efforts, calling into serious question its credibility as a peace partner and the viability of the process itself.

At this critical juncture, the international community cannot stand idly by as Israel, the occupying Power, persists in illegal and aggressive actions, particularly in Occupied East Jerusalem. The necessary efforts must be exerted, including by the Security Council, to uphold its responsibilities and legal obligations to protect and enforce international law and prevent an already volatile situation from further escalating. Israel, the occupying Power, must be made well aware that the international community will neither recognize nor condone the illegal acts it is attempting to create and entrench in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in East Jerusalem.

We thus call for urgent action to compel Israel to cease its illegal practices and to scrupulously abide by all of its legal obligations, including under the Fourth Geneva Convention. This is imperative for preventing the further deterioration and destabilization of the situation and for ensuring the appropriate environment for the resumption of accelerated peace negotiations for the achievement of the two-State solution through establishing a viable, contiguous, and sovereign Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital and ending the Israeli occupation that began in 1967 in accordance with the relevant Security Council resolutions, the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative and the Road Map. Israel must be called upon to prove that it actually is committed to peace and international law and not be permitted to continue with actions totally to the contrary.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 346 letters to you regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 13 October 2009 (A/ES-10/466-S/2009/534), constitute a basic record of the crimes committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian

people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable, and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) **Riyad Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations

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Security Council**Distr.: General
30 October 2009

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Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem
and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-fourth year

**Letter dated 30 October 2009 from the Permanent Observer of
Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

This is our fifth letter regarding the ongoing criminal Israeli actions against the Palestinian population in Occupied East Jerusalem. This systematic Israeli policy of aggression and discrimination against the Palestinian residents of Jerusalem has created a highly volatile and dangerous situation. Israel, the occupying Power, demolished another eight Palestinian homes in various neighbourhoods of the city on Monday, 26 October 2009, displacing 26 civilians, including 10 children. This brings to over 600 the number of Palestinians displaced by the occupying Power in Occupied East Jerusalem since the beginning of the year through its illegal policies of forced eviction and house demolition.

Since its occupation of East Jerusalem in 1967, Israel has demolished over 24,000 Palestinian homes. Reports also confirm that at least 1,500 new demolition orders against Palestinians in East Jerusalem are also in process. These Israeli actions of enforced displacement of Palestinians to replace them with illegal settlers are blatantly illegal and must be condemned and seriously addressed by the international community. Moreover, such actions are considered war crimes according to article 8 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and are considered to be a violation of article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention and, in accordance with article 147, constitute grave breaches of international humanitarian law. They are also in violation of numerous United Nations resolutions, including Security Council resolutions 476 (1980) and 478 (1980).

In the incidents of this week, clashes erupted between the forcibly displaced Palestinians and the Israeli occupying forces demolishing their homes, resulting in the injury of several civilians and the detention of a dozen others. The clashes, while limited in nature, are a continuation of the systematic attempts by Israel, the occupying Power, to provoke violence and increase tension in the occupied city, providing further evidence that the right-wing government in Israel lacks the will and commitment to the principles of the peace process.



In addition to the punitive measures against Palestinian residents in Occupied East Jerusalem, an Israeli court has once again banned Mr. Hatem Abdul Qader, the Palestinian official in charge of Jerusalem affairs, from entering his native city of Jerusalem for three weeks. Israel also persists with the escalation of other repressive measures against Palestinians in East Jerusalem, including the sanctioning of further settlement expansion in and around the city.

This is a situation of urgency and grave seriousness. We believe it merits decisive action by the international community to prevent a further escalation of the situation on the ground. It is in the interest of all parties concerned with achieving peace in the region to put an end to these illegal and provocative actions that Israel, the occupying Power, seems determined to continue. We must join forces to combat such provocation and extremism, which will only further destabilize the situation and undermine the drive for a just, lasting and comprehensive peace.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 347 letters to you regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 26 October 2009 (A/ES-10/467-S/2009/554), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador, Permanent Observer of Palestine
to the United Nations

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19 November 2009

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General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5**Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and
the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory****Security Council
Sixty-fourth year****Letter dated 18 November 2009 from the Permanent Observer of
Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I write to you today to express our grave concern and strong condemnation of the latest unilateral, illegal Israeli measures in Occupied East Jerusalem. On Tuesday, 17 November 2009, Israel, the occupying Power, approved the construction of 900 more new settlement housing units in the illegal settlement of "Gilo", south of Occupied East Jerusalem. The approval for the construction of these units in the Occupied Palestinian Territory is yet further proof of the ongoing and intensifying Israeli policy of land grab and colonization, which has been most aggressive in Occupied East Jerusalem.

In this regard, the Palestinian leadership has repeatedly warned that the settlement expansion plans devised by the current Israeli Government will result in an unprecedented increase in the settler population over the next two years and the further confiscation and destruction of Palestinian land and properties. This is being perpetrated in grave breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention and other relevant provisions of international law and relevant United Nations Security Council and General Assembly resolutions. Moreover, this is absolutely contrary to the well-defined and internationally supported objective of a peace process to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, namely the establishment of an independent, viable and contiguous State of Palestine, living side by side with Israel in peace and security on the basis of the pre-1967 borders.

Indeed, the planned expansion of the illegal settlement of "Gilo", along with all other prior declarations regarding settlement construction, is stark evidence of Israel's determination to destroy the prospects for achieving the two-State solution for peace. This most recent approval also reflects the absolute arrogance of power and impunity that Israel revels in and represents a clear message of disdain towards the international will and consensus in this regard and the resolutions of international legitimacy, which affirm that Occupied East Jerusalem is an integral part of the Occupied Palestinian Territory and that all Israeli colonial and annexation measures in the city are null and void and have no legal validity.



We once again alert the international community to the fact that Israeli settlement expansion in Occupied East Jerusalem is accelerating in an unprecedented manner and that it continues in conjunction with the aggressive Israeli campaign of demolishing Palestinian homes and evicting and displacing hundreds of indigenous Palestinian families from the city. In the last two days, the occupying Power demolished more Palestinian homes, rendering two families, including seven children, homeless. Today, another home demolition was carried out in Al-Isawiyya neighbourhood in Occupied East Jerusalem. Such Israeli policies and measures clearly aim at altering the demographic composition, status and nature of East Jerusalem, in an attempt to create a new reality on the ground, in effect pre-empting any final solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

Furthermore, the endangerment of the prospects for peace is repeatedly highlighted in statements made in this connection by the Israeli Government and its officials. For example, following this recent approval of illegal settlement expansion in Occupied East Jerusalem, the Israeli Prime Minister issued a statement in which he stated that "Jerusalem is Israel's capital and will remain as such". Such a statement affirms his Government's position towards the city, which is in total contradiction and in clear violation of international law and the relevant United Nations resolutions, which respectively affirm the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force, affirm that East Jerusalem remains a part of the Palestinian Territory occupied since 1967, and reject Israel's imposition of the so-called "Basic Law" on the city and any and all measures aimed at altering the demographic composition, character and status of the city. This deplorable position that continues to be audaciously repeated by Israeli officials must thus be firmly confronted and rejected by the international community, in line with the position of principle that has steadfastly been taken in this regard, including as reflected in numerous United Nations resolutions.

In this regard, the Palestinian people and their leadership have expressed deep appreciation for the assertion of principled positions and strong, clear statements recently made by leaders from around the international community, including by Your Excellency, regarding the latest such illegal, unilateral Israeli measures. However, what is needed now is for the international community, including the Security Council, to take immediate, practical and decisive action to bring Israel into compliance with international law, including its obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention, because the alternative gravely threatens not only Palestinian national aspirations for independence and statehood in the Palestinian Territory occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem, but also gravely threatens the stability and security of the entire region.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 348 letters to you regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 30 October 2009 (A/ES-10/468-S/2009/565), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) **Riyad Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations
